

Karen Mouritsen
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States Office
20 M Street SE, Suite 950
Washington, D.C. 20003

Re: Protest of the September 21, 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Wayne National Forest

Dear Director Mouritsen:

I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's planned September 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and the programmatic Final Environmental Assessment for oil and gas leasing in the Wayne National Forest, Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District, Monroe County, Ohio- 6 Parcels covering 191.71 acres available for lease.

ES-001

Parcel Info

View on MapMonroe County, OH

T4N, R5W, Ohio River Survey

Sec. 7: SENE

Acres: 39.68Opening bid: \$2/acreOpen for bidding:

09/21/17 7:00 AM CDT

ES-002

Parcel Info

View on MapMonroe County, OH

T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey

Sec. 15: NENE, W2SENE, Part SWNE

Acres: 97.72Opening bid: \$2/acreOpen for bidding:

09/21/17 7:02 AM CDT

ES-003

Parcel Info

View on Map Monroe County, OH

T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey

Sec. 15: Part NESE

Acres: 4.16

PROTEST

I. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests

This Protest is filed on behalf of Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action:

Eric Engle
Chairman
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
324 Point Drive
Parkersburg, WV
(304) 488-4384
ericengle85@yahoo.com

Members of Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action use the Wayne National Forest for recreational purposes and believe strongly that this area, Ohio's only national forest, needs to be preserved for open public use, not leased for oil & gas development.

II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:

BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below:

Methane gas is 86 times more efficient a heat-trapping greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over a 20-year timespan. This should be included as a factor in any environmental impact assessment, though no environmental impact assessment has been completed to my knowledge. Methane is released at every stage of oil and gas development from drilling to hydraulic fracturing to pipelining and trucking to use of the natural gas and oil. Environment and public health, and not just economic development, must be considered when leasing these areas. 2